

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 05058 240729Z
ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8703

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5058

FOR NEA, AMBASSADOR DUBS ONLY, FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, AF
SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

REF: STATE 150275

1. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SENATE CONFIRMATION. I READ ABOUT IT IN THE WIRELESS FILE THIS MORNING AND AM PLEASED EVERYTHING NOW SEEMS SQUARED AWAY. WE VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR JOINING US.

2. OUR NEW ATTACHE, LTCOL CAVANAUGH, ARRIVED LAST WEEK AND SAID THAT A COUPLE WEEKS AGO, WHEN HE MET YOU, YOU WERE TENTATIVELY THINKING OF A JULY 7 ARRIVAL DATE. I HAVE ALERTED THE STAFF TO THIS POSSIBILITY, PENDING FURTHER NOTICE FROM YOU.

3. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE PROCEEDED WITH OUR JULY 4 PLANS. I WILL HOST AN OFFICIAL ONE-HOUR NOON RECEPTION AT YOUR RESIDENCE, WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED LATE IN THE AFTERNOON BY AN AMERICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIR, PROBABLY AT THE SCHOOL.

4. REGARDING BERNIE WOERZ'S ARRIVAL, WE HAVE RECEIVED MESSAGES SAYING HE IS NOW COMING ON JULY 12 OR 13. THIS IS HELPFUL AND WILL ALLOW AN OVERLAP WITH DON WOODWARD WHO NOW PLANS TO DEPART ON JULY 17.

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5. A LAST MATTER: IT IS TIME THE EMBASSY DID ANOTHER REPORT ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE TARAKI REGIME IS COMMUNIST AND NONALIGNED. OUR LAST MESSAGE WAS DATED MAY 31 (KABUL 4422). IN THE THREE WEEKS WHICH HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THAT MESSAGE, THE COMMUNIST COLORATION AND PRO-SOVIET ALIGNMENT OF THIS COUNTRY HAVE BECOME CLEARER. ORIGINALLY, I SCHEDULED OUR NEXT REPORT

TO GO OUT JUNE 30, BUT WISH NOW TO DISCUSS WITH YOU THE PROS AND
CONS OF DELAYING THIS UNTIL YOUR ARRIVAL.

6. WHATEVER MESSAGE WE SEND IS LIKELY TO REFLECT A FAIRLY FIRM
CONCLUSION. IF WE SEND IT AS SCHEDULED, IT WILL ALLOW THE
DEPARTMENT POLICY AND LEGAL PEOPLE TO START WORKING ON THE
RAMIFICATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE LEGISLATIVE ONES. FURTHERMORE,
WE EXPECT THIS WEEK THE PLANNING MINISTRY'S REPORT AS TO WHICH
OF OUR ON-GOING AND PLANNED USAID PROGRAMS THEY WISH US TO
CONTINUE, ALTHOUGH KNOWING AFGHAN BUREAUCRACY, THERE MAY BE
SLIPPAGE ON THIS TIMING. SINCE ANY WASHINGTON DECISION ON
AUTHORIZING NEW AID OBLIGATIONS IS LIKELY TO CONSUME SOMETIME
AND WILL BE INFLUENCED PROBABLY BY OUR COMMUNIST-REGIME-QUESTION
ASSESSMENT, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE BOTH MESSAGES BEFORE
THE POLICY MAKERS AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME.

7. ON THE OTHER HAND, I SEE A REAL ADVANTAGE TO WAITING
UNTIL YOU ARRIVE BEFORE SENDING OUR UP-DATED ASSESSMENT.
OUR MESSAGE WOULD THEN BEAR YOUR IMPRIMATUR AND REFLE ANY
ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS YOU MIGHT HAVE. THE ONLY DISADVANTAGE IS THE
ONE ALREADY STATED OF DELAYING WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF THIS
MATTER. WOULD YOU CABLE ME IMMEDIATELY YOUR PREFERENCE?
MEANWHILE, WE ARE WORKING ON OUR DRAFT.

8. BEST REGARDS.

AMSTUTZ

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